Investment in the field of Broadcasting

†*410. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some multinational companies which are interested in making investment and have offered their participation in the field of broadcasting;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have shown interest in their investment proposals; and

(d) if so, the details of action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITELY) : (a) to (d) Indian comapnies have been allowed to set up FM radio stations in India. Terrestrial television broadcasting is not allowed for private companies. In regard to satellite based TV broadcasting, uplinking from India is allowed only to Indian companies with minimum 80% of Indian shareholding and having Indian management control. Therefore the question of participation of Multinational companies in Broadcasting does not arise.

Selling Off ITDC

*411. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether modalities of ITDC sell off have been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the global adviser in this regard would be appointed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITELY) : (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to ITDC. The main recommendations of the Commission are as under :

(i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Other hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them.

(iii) ITDC may continue to operate the business of duty free shops and travel and tours business subject to the viability of the operations.

(c) The action to appoint the Global Adviser is in process.

Broadcasting programmes in Punjabi and Urdu

*412. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether is the proportion of broadcasts in Punjabi *vis-a-vis* Urdu directed to Pakistan by the External Services Division of All India Radio considering that there is a marked revival of interest in Punjabi language in West Punjab; and

(b) what is the proportion of cultural content in the quantum of programmes in Punjabi directed to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The proportion of broadcast in Punjabi *vis-a-vis* Urdu directed to West Punjab (Pakistan) by External Services Division of All India Radio is 1 : 6. External Services Division broadcasts two hours of Punjabi programmes daily whereas the duration of its Urdu programme is 12 hours 15 minutes.

(b) The proportion of cultural contents in programmes in punjabi directed to West Punjab (Pakistan) is half of total broadcast per day.

Affairs of Central Disinvestment Commission

*413. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

SHRI C. M. IMRAHIM :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports submitted by the Central Disinvestment Commission so far, and how many of them have been in the cold storage with little action taken on the recommendations, indicating the action so far taken on each report ;

(b) how long it will take to complete the process of taking action on the remaining recommendations; and